

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A container, comprising:

a container body formed by a wall of polymer material, wherein the wall defines a generally planar end wall and a side wall joined to an outer periphery of the end wall and extending away therefrom, and wherein the opening is defined in the end wall;

an opening defined in the end wall of the container body, the opening being formed by cutting the end wall so as to remove a panel from a remaining portion of the end wall such that the panel and remaining portion comprise the same polymer material, the panel being sized to substantially completely cover the opening;

the panel heat staked to the remaining portion of the end wall of the container body covering the opening so as to create a sealed, frangible interface between the panel and the remaining portion of the end wall, the sealed, frangible interface comprising the polymer material along an outer edge of the panel and along an inner edge of the opening of the container body being melted and joined together; and

a pull feature joined to the panel and which, when pulled, causes detachment of the panel from the remaining portion of the end wall of the container body along the sealed, frangible interface and thereby removes the panel to gain access to the contents of the container through the opening.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) A container according to claim 1, wherein the side wall defines a second opening at an opposite end of the side wall from the end wall, and further comprising a closure attached to the side wall to close the second opening.

4. (Original) A container according to claim 3, wherein the closure comprises a metal end.

5. (Original) A container according to claim 4, wherein the side wall defines a flange encircling the second opening and the metal end is attached to the flange by double-seaming.

6. (Original) A container according to claim 3, wherein the closure comprises a foil membrane attached to the side wall by heat sealing.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) A container according to claim 1, wherein the panel defines an exterior surface and the pull feature is a pull tab joined to the exterior surface of the panel.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A container according to claim 1, wherein the pull feature includes a pull tab and a ring.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A container, comprising:  
a container body formed by a wall of polymer material, wherein the wall defines a generally planar end wall and a side wall joined to an outer periphery of the end wall and extending away therefrom, and wherein the opening is defined in the end wall, the opening having an inner edge;

a panel substantially completely covering the opening, the panel having an outer edge adjacent the inner edge of the opening; and

a pull feature formed separately from and joined to the panel, and including a ring of polymer material that overhangs the outer edge of the panel and is heat staked to the end wall so as to create a sealed, frangible interface comprising the polymer material of the ring and the polymer material of the end wall being melted and joined together, such that pulling the pull feature fractures the sealed, frangible interface and thereby removes the panel to gain access to the contents of the container through the opening.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A container, comprising:

a container body formed by a wall of polymer material, wherein the wall defines a generally planar end wall and a side wall joined to an outer periphery of the end wall and extending away therefrom, and wherein the opening is defined in the end wall, the opening having an inner edge;

a panel comprising the same polymer material as the container body and substantially completely covering the opening, the panel having an outer edge adjacent the inner edge of the opening; and

a pull feature formed separately from and joined to the panel, the pull feature including a ring of polymer material that overhangs the outer edge of the panel and extends between the outer edge of the panel and the inner edge of the opening, the ring being heat staked to the inner edge of the opening to create a sealed, frangible interface between the panel and the end wall, the sealed, frangible interface comprising the polymer material of the ring and the polymer material of the container body along the inner edge of the opening being melted and joined together, such that pulling the pull feature fractures the sealed, frangible interface and removes the panel from the end wall.

18. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:  
a thermoformed container body of polymer material defining a top end of the container and a bottom end of the container, wherein the top end includes an opening, and wherein the container body flares outwardly from the top end to the bottom end; and  
a removable lid comprising the same polymer material as the container body attached to the top end of the container body covering the opening;  
wherein the removable lid is attached to the top end of the container body by heat staking in which the polymer material of the lid and the polymer material of the container body are melted and joined together.

19. (Original) A container according to claim 18, wherein the removable lid is attached to the top end of the container body so as to create a sealed, frangible interface between the removable lid and the top end of the container body.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) A container according to claim 18, wherein the container defines a second opening at the bottom end of the container and a closure attached to the bottom end to close the second opening.

22. (Original) A container according to claim 21, wherein the closure comprises a foil membrane attached to the bottom end by conductive heat sealing.

23. (Original) A container according to claim 18, wherein the removable lid includes a pull feature.

24. (Original) A container according to claim 23, wherein the pull feature includes a pull tab and a ring.

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25. (Original) A container according to claim 18, wherein the removable lid is a panel cut from the top end of the container such that the panel is sized to substantially completely cover the opening.

26. (Canceled)